

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 41

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieu

April 20, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 41—Relative to Santa Monica Airport.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 41, as introduced, Lieu. Santa Monica Airport.

This measure would memorialize the Federal Aviation Administration, the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the federal Department of Transportation, and the members of the California congressional delegation to work collaboratively to review noise levels and the safety of flight operations at Santa Monica Airport, to carefully examine the air pollution impact on the communities that surround the airport, and to enlist the help of expert scientists to study the effects of emissions from the airport and apply that science into remediation efforts, among other things.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Municipal Airport was
2 established in 1917 and is one of the oldest and largest general
3 aviation airports in the South Coast Air Quality Management
4 District today and located in the heart of a residential community;
5 and
6 WHEREAS, Since the 1980s, a number of changes have taken
7 place with respect to aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport,
8 including the changing of Federal Aviation Administration flight
9 rules to require jet aircraft to receive permission from air traffic
10 controllers at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) before

1 taking off, which has created significant departure delays at Santa
2 Monica Airport and forced jet aircraft to idle with their engines
3 running for longer times while awaiting permission from LAX to
4 take off; and

5 WHEREAS, More large, high-polluting jet aircraft use Santa
6 Monica Airport than ever before and, in recent years, the number
7 of jet aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport has increased
8 exponentially, from an annual total of 1,000 in 1984 to tens of
9 thousands today; and

10 WHEREAS, The ocean breezes can carry the jet emissions into
11 the residential neighborhoods to the east of Santa Monica Airport,
12 replacing the fresh ocean breezes with the strong odor of jet fuel
13 that very often enters into homes and infringes upon the right of
14 the people to breathe clean air; and

15 WHEREAS, Residents surrounding Santa Monica Airport
16 experience negative effects on their health and quality of life from
17 noise and air pollution, effects that are exacerbated by jet aircraft
18 that idle for long periods of time; and

19 WHEREAS, Numerous studies on, or including, Santa Monica
20 Airport have indicated the possibility of significant long-term
21 health risk impacts of toxic and associated pollutants generated
22 from the Santa Monica Airport, but a lack of data on general
23 aviation emissions has inhibited more comprehensive studies on
24 the local and short-term impacts of the airport's pollution on
25 surrounding communities; and

26 WHEREAS, Studies also recognize a need to establish at least
27 a minimum distance between homes and aircraft operations. A
28 recent study by the University of California at Los Angeles
29 recommends a minimum distance of at least 660 meters between
30 the aircraft operations at Santa Monica Airport and the neighboring
31 community; and

32 WHEREAS, The existing situation is unacceptable and the
33 federal government in general, and the Federal Aviation
34 Administration in particular, must do more to eradicate air and
35 noise pollution relative to the Santa Monica Airport because the
36 federal government claims that the City of Santa Monica is
37 preempted from doing more to address these concerns pursuant to
38 the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 7401 et seq.) and other
39 federal laws; now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
2 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes
3 the Federal Aviation Administration, the federal Environmental
4 Protection Agency, the federal Department of Transportation, and
5 the members of our congressional delegation to work
6 collaboratively to review noise levels, the safety of flight operations
7 at Santa Monica Airport, and to carefully examine the air pollution
8 impact on the surrounding communities; and be it further

9 *Resolved,* That the entities memorialized above enlist the help
10 of expert scientists to study the effects of emissions from Santa
11 Monica Airport and apply that science into remediation efforts;
12 and be it further

13 *Resolved,* That the entities memorialized above work together
14 to develop and offer federally funded and provided relocation
15 assistance to affected homeowners who desire it; and be it further

16 *Resolved,* That the Legislature strongly urges the Federal
17 Aviation Administration to honor the decision of the City of Santa
18 Monica to increase safety precautions at Santa Monica Airport,
19 and restrict the use of Category C and D aircraft at Santa Monica
20 Airport and limit the fuel these jets are allowed to carry when
21 taking off from Santa Monica Airport; and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
23 of this resolution to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation
24 Administration, to the United States Secretary of Transportation,
25 to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and to each
26 Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the
27 United States.